

The Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Walk-For-The-World *Improvising*

The annual 'Walk-For-The-World' for LifeWord Broadcast Ministries is an unusual event in its own right, but for the members of Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi, it took some last minute adjusting to fully participate. Over 35 members had signed up to walk and to purchase T-Shirts to wear. Church coordinator Norman Hopkins got his list together and when contacting LifeWord to order the shirts found that the store was 'sold out'. Demand for shirts had been so great that most of the sizes the church needed were not available.

That is when the 'light bulb' came on! He asked if LifeWord would make the 2009 Walk logo available to the church to print their own shirts. Upon getting permission Hopkins had the idea for the church to honor one of its faithful members for his faithful support and participation in the Walk over the years. Tommy Dertinger, husband of National Sunbeam Promoter Linda Dertinger, passed away this summer after a number of years in poor health. Tommy was a faithful member of Big Creek Church and a faithful supporter of the Walk-For-The-World when his health permit-



Mrs. Nita Faye Hill "moving on down the road" at the 2009 Walk-for-the-World.

ted. He was also very active in supporting all areas of ministry through Big Creek Baptist Church. He was a faithful bus driver and 'doer' of whatever was needed.

Bro. Hopkins requested permission from Tommy's wife, Linda, to hold the walk in memory of Tommy. She graciously agreed. Custom T-Shirts were printed for the First Annual Tommy Dertinger Memorial Effort for LifeWord's Walk-For-The-World. The participation was good with over \$2,600.00 being raised for worldwide missionary radio.

Among the participants 'walking' for Big Creek Church this year were two of our members who participated in their wheelchairs. Bro. Mitchell Holifield and Mrs. Nita Faye Hill both "walked" in their motorized chairs. Bro. Mitchell suffers from severe knee problems and used his chair to make the entire walk.

Mrs. Nita Faye Holifield, wife of Big Creek Deacon Howard Hill, is a double amputee and mother of Linda Faye Dertinger and Tommy's mother-in-law. She was challenged by her pastor a number of weeks



Pictured above is the family of Tommy Dertinger as they participated in the annual Walk-for-the-World for LifeWord Broadcast Ministries. Left to right are: Linda Dertinger, her parents Howard and Nita Faye Hill, and her sister Sonya James.

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The Land Of Elephants

by *Ralph Izard, M.D.*
BMMI Director

"Indochina" was the name proposed for the region in the early 19th century by Scottish poet and orientalist John Leyden because it lay between India and China and perhaps because it had, in its early history been dominated by those superpowers. Indochina is thought of as the former colonial French countries of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Once home to thousands of elephants, very few remain today. Water buffaloes are seen everywhere, but one rarely sees an elephant.

The life expectancy is 50 years for those in rural areas and somewhat longer for the city population. Also, in some rural areas it is estimated that the mortality rate is as high as 350 per 1000 live births, or, thirty-five percent of all children die before the age of one. The primary causes of death are communicable diseases, malaria, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhea.

Eighty percent of the people are substance farmers and use 80% of the arable land to grow rice. Ten percent of the population exists on an income of \$2.00 or less per day. Approximately 60% of the people are Buddhist with 31.5% being Animist. Only 1.5% profess to be Christians.

Baptist Medical Missions International, commonly called the BMMI, was invited to work with the established medical community to improve the health of the residents in this part of Asia. This was done even though it is known that we are a Christian missionary organization. Because this area of Asia has constitutional laws opposing Christianity, it is not uncommon to be asked, "How and why are you doing this?"

The first invitation was the result of Missionary Doyle Moore and Dr. Fil Tabayoyong getting acquainted on a flight from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The BMMI responded by taking a medical team to provide health care and assistance with the needs of the local hospital in Ban Lung in the province of Rattanakiri, Cambodia. Soon after this project Missionary Edmund Neil Mamon and his wife Jean from the Philippines began to teach English and provide medical help in Ban Lung. The news spread north and the BMMI was invited to Pakse, Laos, specifically to the Nakeo village on the banks of the Mekong River. It was determined that this village was a gateway to villages on both sides of the river and that a clinic built here could benefit many people in these villages. This was presented at the National Senior Adult Conference in Branson and an offering was taken to build this clinic! Now, the



Dr. Ralph Izard (right) is pictured with Dr. Bounthanh, a Laotian physician who recently accepted Christ.

see BMMI on page 6

'Til Death Do Us Part - Maybe Not

As I was preparing the wedding ceremony for a young couple this week, I began to ponder the true meaning of the familiar words. The words of the wedding vows are spoken in the presence of God and witnesses. They are joyous, personal, and somber words of commitment to your mate as she or he stands with you to say the same words. In our day, the words seem to be "until a better, richer, younger, healthier, sexier partner comes along." Here are some concepts that I have observed in vogue right now.

Living together

This is the old fashioned way of having an intimate relationship without being married. We simply agree to "be with" each other. We have children; we have a mortgage; we are together, but we have no real commitment. This time line may be

years, or it may be short lived.

Serial monogamy

A man or woman may have a series of only one married mate at a time. The series may stretch to more than one, even more than three married mates over a period of years.

Open marriage

This was "introduced" in the 70s in that couples would stay married but "date" other

people. Both male and female were at liberty to experiment with another partner for variety of experience to "spice up" their marriage.

Polyamory

This is more "modern" in that

both married partners are in agreement to have relationships with multiple people at the same time with all parties being fully informed of each individual action. All together, we are all just one big, happy family.

We as human beings are great at providing rational reasons for anything we do. Some relationship rationalizations prevalent in the culture we are experiencing:

Everybody's doing it. Why should I be any different? You only go around once!

The culture has changed. It is unrealistic to think I can be monogamous today.

I am different. My needs/desires are not like those other



Leave It To Cleaver

Tony Cleaver

The Twelve Rules of Christmas®

(Compiled by attorneys for The Rutherford Institute)

Editor's Note: It does seem that it should not be necessary to share the following information, but due to the political correctness crowd, organizations such as the ACLU, and individuals who despise anything 'Christian' we are making this available to our readers. Hopefully the use of this information will not be necessary. It is provided to encourage our readers to stand up for their God given rights to celebrate their personal beliefs in the manner they wish.

Unfortunately, Christmas has become a time of controversy over what can or cannot be done in terms of celebrating the holiday. In order to clear up much of the misunderstanding, the following twelve rules are offered:

1. Public school students' written or spoken personal expressions concerning the religious significance of Christmas (e.g., T-shirts with the slogan, "Jesus Is the Reason for the Season") may not be censored by school officials absent evidence that the speech would cause a substantial disruption.

2. So long as teachers are generally permitted to wear clothing or jewelry or have personal items expressing their views about the holidays, Christian teachers may not be prohibited from similarly expressing their views by

wearing Christmas-related clothing or jewelry or carrying Christmas-related personal items.

3. Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance, and not for the purpose of promoting Christianity.

4. Public school teachers may send Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.

5. Public schools may include Christmas music, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs relating to Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or other similar holidays.

6. Public schools may not require students to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious beliefs.

7. Public school students may not be prohibited from distributing literature to fellow students concerning the Christmas holiday or invitations to church Christmas events on the same

terms that they would be allowed to distribute other literature that is not related to school-work.

8. Private citizens or groups may display crèches or other Christmas symbols in public parks subject to the same reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that would apply to other similar displays.

9. Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations of the Christmas holiday, such as Christmas trees and Christmas light displays, and may include crèches in their displays at least so long as the purpose for including the crèche is not to promote its religious content and it is placed in context with other symbols of the Holiday season as part of an effort to celebrate the public Christmas holiday through its traditional symbols.

10. Neither public nor private employers may prevent employees from decorating their offices for Christmas, playing Christmas music, or wearing clothing related to Christmas merely because of their religious content so long as these activities are not used to harass or intimidate

people who are socially, educationally, economically below me. I am above "them."

I am an adult. (Perhaps this is why God calls it adultery.) I won't get hurt or hurt anyone else.

Let me say to all our Christian family, God made us male and female, in His image. He instituted the one man/one woman concept. The monogamous relationship of married man and wife must be held up, exalted, and shown to be the right choice in our day and in our time. Let the vows of "I do and I will and I pledge before the presence of God" be made as the most positive of all shining and bright examples in our Christian culture so that others see our good works. To those of you who are that model, God bless you and may you continue to hold up the values of Christ and His Church in your marriage.

others.

11. Public or private employees whose sincerely held religious beliefs require that they not work on Christmas must be reasonably accommodated by their employers unless granting the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer.

12. Government recognition of Christmas as a public holiday and granting government employees a paid holiday for Christmas does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

For more information, email The Rutherford Institute at staff@rutherford.org

Walk-for-the-World

from page 1

before the walk to participate - which she did enthusiastically. Mrs. Hill was an inspiration to others to participate and make this first annual Tommy Dertinger Memorial Effort a success.

The scripture was certainly proven true that Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". Phil. 4:13.

No respite for Iraqi Christians

OneNewsNow - The situation for believers in Baghdad has become worse.

After a time of peace, it appears violence has once again become commonplace in Baghdad. Christians and Muslims have been killed in a string of terror attacks, which have pushed hospitals and doctors to the brink.

Jerry Dykstra is with Open Doors USA and says a coworker in Baghdad has been able to send him several e-mails about the situation.

"He really grieves over his city. He bemoans the situation - the lack of basic supplies in the hospitals," Dykstra notes. "He was saying that if they come in to the hospital wounded, they likely won't make it out of the hospital because of a lack of medicine and lack of care."

The coworker gave Dykstra a special prayer request. "They don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. They don't see any light hardly. So that is why we need to pray that the light of Jesus Christ will give them peace, and that we will not forget them," he adds.

More than 600,000 Christians in Iraq have been displaced since 2003.

And

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:28-33

"Want to touch a child's life?"

Go to, www.shepherdbags.info

Street preacher wins free speech case

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Jesse Morrell, a 24-year-old with a ministry of traveling to college campuses to preach the Gospel, has won a settlement with the city of New Haven, Conn., to resume calling students to repentance on the streets near Yale University.

In 2004, when Morrell was still a teenager, he tried to express his faith vocally at four different locations on public streets outside nightclubs in New Haven. Each time, police officers warned him he would be arrested if he continued, and one even ripped the wire from his tape recorder after he informed the officer that he was documenting the confrontation.

The officers told Morrell that club patrons had complained about his preaching and said his speech was "annoying," thereby violating the local noise ordinance. In 2005, Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the New Haven police, citing the First Amendment.

"Christians shouldn't be penalized for expressing their beliefs," Jonathan Scruggs of ADF said. "Police cannot silence citizens because they or others think their message is 'annoying.' All Americans are free to peacefully exercise their First Amendment right to free speech on a public sidewalk. Those rights must be protected, or we're all in trouble."

On Aug. 17, the city of New Haven agreed to a consent order that will allow Morrell to share his faith on the sidewalk without fear of harassment or arrest.

Alan Sears, also of ADF, noted that regardless of whether people approve of the style or message Morrell employs, he has the right to speak.

"Not even all Christians feel

continued on page 5

State Youth Department Seeks Applicants

The BMA of Mississippi Department of Youth is actively seeking to fill the position of Youth Director for our state work. The trustees will begin the interview process in late January. We need your help to get the word out to all our churches, pastors, and youth workers.

We will be taking resumes until the end of December. Resumes may be sent to P.O. Box 4247, Laurel, MS 39441, or electronically to

cypresscreekbaptistchurch@yahoo.com.
Chris Freeman, Clerk
BMAM Department of Youth

Mississippi Baptist

JOURNAL OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

On The Web at www.ms baptist.org

Extra, Extra READ ALL ABOUT IT

Your Support Appreciated!

LAUREL, MS - Editor Don Brown urges all of the supporting churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi to make a special effort to help raise additional operating funds for the Publication's Department *Special Emphasis Drive* during **January**.

Brown stated that the January Emphasis offering each year needs to raise about 15% of the department's annual operating income. "*Our goal for this year is to raise funds to continue to operate this ministry in a fiscally sound manner,*" Brown said. He continued, "*We are asking each church to give a generous offering to help us maintain a good fiscal operation.*"



Don Brown
Editor

January 2010 - Special Emphasis Our Need - \$10,000

That I may publish ... and tell of all thy wondrous works.

Pslam 26:7

Mississippi Baptist Opinion Page

Journal of the Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi

Random Thoughts

My Baptism

As you read the obituary of Bro. Harry Burge on this page I would like to share a special memory of him. I was not raised in a Christian home, but the Lord knew just what He was doing when he led me to my wife Bonnie. Because of her upbringing and influence in our marriage, I finally accepted Christ at the ripe old age of 28. We were active in Parkview Baptist Church, Gautier, at the time and Bro. Harry Burge was our pastor. I was saved after a hard look at myself and because of the influence of godly people at Parkview.



Don Brown
Editor

When I accepted the Lord and was 'rebaptized' Bro. Burge was the instrument God used to perform His ordinance.

We are sorry for Bro. Harry's illness and the loss of his family. We will be praying for them.

Political Correctness

There are articles in this issue about the Christmas season and the PC crowd. Our hearts are saddened as we see the current condition of our world. The only 'correctness' that really matters is the Lord's. Those who disagree with that will have to take that up with Him. We hope for their sakes, sooner than later.

Holiday Blues?

I know some get all moody and sad at Christmas time, but what is the great problem? We

celebrate the birth of the Redeemer of all mankind! How can that be a 'downer'? I guess the answer is that 1) others don't know Him and 2) that some who do are not putting Him up front and foremost in their lives - especially this time of the year.

It's about Him and not what we get or give.

Global Warming

I don't know a lot about this, but from listening to both sides and using common sense it seems that this is not the problem some would have us to believe. We are commanded to take care of God's green earth and we certainly should do that. It seems the warming that should really cause concern is eternal warming for those who reject Christ.

Health Care

I have health care insurance. It is very expensive. I get to see the doctor I need to see, usually when I want to (It seems all my doctors are extremely busy). I see specialists when I need to. I get expensive tests and yes, it costs me a lot of personal money before the insurance kicks in.

I have the best health care plan available. Not the Blue Cross plan, but the Calvary Cross plan. Let us care for ourselves and our health. I think it is a sin against God not to take the very best care of our bodies as we can. While fulfilling this duty, let us be careful to maintain our spiritual health and have a positive influence on the spiritual health and condition of those around us.

It only makes good sense and I am sure this is God's will for us all.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Letters From Our Readers

Letters reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily this publication or the BMA of Mississippi

Misisonary Doyle Moore Needs Your Help!

Dear Churches and Supporters,

We received notice that our work funds have fallen below the red line and we will not be able to meet our obligations in December for the Bible College and Asia-Pacific Church Planting Ministry! We urgently need your help to alleviate this shortfall.

After a medical/vacation in the States, the weeks we have been back have been jam-packed with events!

The Baptist Missionary Association of the Philippines has caught the Vision! Everyone is excited about the possibilities of sending missionaries to other countries! Men and women are being called and going as missionaries and tentmakers to the Creative Access Nations of the Asia-Pacific region.

Several missionary/tentmakers have been commissioned these past few weeks. Two pastors have been ordained. Another rededicated his life to the ministry. God is moving here in the Philippines in a great way. The devil will try to hinder, mislead, distract, and destroy. Please pray for Christians here who are following His leadership in their lives.

The economic squeeze has really affected us severely these past few weeks. Our Work Fund has dropped below the red line and we are unable to meet all our obligations this month and more urgently those coming in December. One was that we were to have been involved in the BMMI medical trip to Indonesia, where we have a Filipino missionary. We were not able to attend because Work Funds were insufficient.

Medical Missions and English Seminars open doors and build

Church of the Covered Dish BY THOMAS TAPP



"Look Howard, I've tried to be sensitive to you fear of water, but sooner or later a baptism gets you wet..."

relationships with people who would not normally give a missionary the time of day. They see and feel the love of God through our lives as we care for and work with them. They ask "What is it that makes you so happy?" Or, "Why did you come to our poor village to give medical attention and medicines to our people? What do you get out of it?" And we can answer them that our God, the God of love, has sent us. He doesn't demand that we give our lives to die for Him, but rather that we give our lives to live for Him. This seems to get through where standing on a thousand street corners shouting that God is Love would seldom make a dent.

Please pray that God will lay upon people's hearts to support the Doyle Moore Work Funds. Please prayerfully consider asking your church to have a special offering to help us through the difficult months ahead, and also prayerfully consider putting the Doyle Moore Work Fund in your church budget. God has laid before us great opportunities to go tell people about the love of Jesus who have never heard before, in places where missionaries have not been allowed to go. Should you feel led to assist, please send to the BMA Missions Department, P.O. Box 30910, Little Rock, AR 72260-0016. Please make sure to include in the lower left corner of the check "Doyle Moore Work Fund".

In His love & service,
Doyle & Linda Moore

Bro. Harry Burge passes away

BMA pastor Rev. Harry Burge, age 69, passed away on November 29, in Laurel, after a long battle with cancer.

Bro. Burge was a BMA minister and was currently pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Laurel.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Eleanor Jordan Burge of Laurel; his children, Mary (Walter) Black of Carriere, Mississippi, Marc (Angie) Burge of Lucedale, Jonathan (Alayne) Burge of Hattiesburg, Larry (Allison) Burge of Lucedale, his grandchildren, Pamela (Sammy) Hayes, Heather Black, Scooter (Brittany) Black, Aaron Smith, Dusty (Jennifer) Moeller, Melissa (Jason) Bennett, Daniel Prather, Kalyn Burge, Landen Burge, Madeline Burge, Sarah Burge, Brodie Burge, Ashley Burge, Lawren Burge, and Luke Burge; his great-grandchildren, Cadence Brady, Carli Hayes, Carsen Black, McKenna Hayes, and Bragg Moeller. .

Bro. Burge was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Thelma Burge; one grandchild, Dusty Burge; two sisters: Billie Faye Burge and Mildred Walters; and one brother: Larry Burge.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, December 02, 2009 at Sycamore Baptist Church, Carriere. Officiating were Rev. Jewel E. Prince, Rev. Zach Dant, Rev. Ray Freeman, and Rev. Billy Ferrel. Burial was in the Sycamore Cemetery.

Bro. Burge pastored a number of churches in Mississippi during his ministry.

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USPS 353-960
P.O. Box 8181
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-8000

Phone 601-426-3293
Fax 601-763-4430

Don J. Brown, Editor
E-Mail - editor@msbaptist.org
Web site www.msbaptist.org

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ONE NEWS NOW.COM

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Ah, yes. It is Christmas time. Family. Friends. Food. Fellowship. It's a wonderful thing. Of course, the most important part of Christmas is the essence of its' existence. It is the time of the year that Christians choose to celebrate the miraculous birth of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. The savior of the world. The King of kings. Immanuel.



Family Ark Ministries

Travis Plumlee

day for her. I dream of one giant fireworks display after another. We communicate our desires. We share our thoughts. We make plans together. We do things that not only accommodate each other, but plans that will accommodate our family and friends.

Tip Number Two

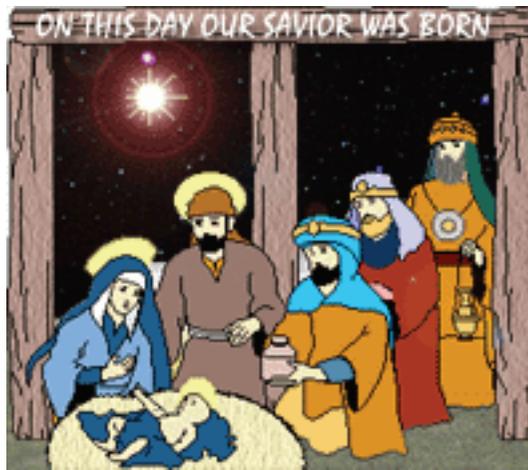
Attitude is a choice. You will make your holiday miserable for yourself and others if you choose to. Or it can be merry and bright regardless of where you are, or what is going on in your life. Your choice of attitude is the most important decision to make every morning. A cheerful, smiling attitude is the nicest gift you could give to those around you. Unwrap a smile and put it on!

Tip Number Three

It is a balancing act with children. On the one hand, you need to allow children to enjoy their holidays doing things they want to do. Some kids will want to just relax and play video games or sleep in. Others will want to visit friends or go snow skiing. As much as is reasonable, allow them to do some things that they want to do.

Tip Number Four

On the other hand, children can be encouraged to do family things. Some kids don't want to spend meals or holiday time with family. But it is important that we pass on a sense of stability and heritage to our children. If encouragement doesn't work, then you can insist that they do some things. You are the parent. You are the loving authority in their life. If they don't want to go to grandma's to eat, then you explain it nicely of how this is what the family will be doing. You might say, "I know this is not what you want to do. But life is not always about doing what we want. You are part of a family and we spend time together as a family. You will go with us. You don't have to like everything we do, but I will expect a decent attitude out of you with the things we do. Go with a different



attitude and you might be surprised how much you end up liking it. I will expect you to honor me in this request."

Tip Number Four

Everyone doesn't have to be happy during the holidays. Please, don't dampen your enthusiasm over the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, you must remember that not everyone has the same life experiences you do. If someone at church says, "Oh we don't get together. We don't decorate with lights etc." Don't come back with: "Oh why not! I can't believe you don't do that. We do in our family. I never heard of such a thing." Don't crush someone. Maybe they grew up in an abusive or dysfunctional home. Holidays were horror days for them. Drunkenness, abuse, verbal atrocities. These are their memories. While everyone can

start new memories, maybe they just don't get as excited as you do because of the history. Let them be. And if someone has experienced serious illness or death in the family, it is called survival. We don't have to do the traditional thing this year. We don't have to do anything that anyone puts on us. The goal during these trial years is to just survive. And none of the rest of us should be judgmental, or force someone to be happy. Scripture tells us to not sing songs to a heavy heart.

Tip Number Five

Don't let Christmas past haunt Christmas present. With Jesus, all things are made new. None of us can go back and make a brand new start, but all of us can start today to make a brand new ending. Maybe you had a

bad childhood. Maybe you suffered a loss. Maybe you didn't do all the fun memory building when your kids were still at home.

Did you know you can always start new memories? New traditions. You can at any given year, change what you did or didn't do in the past, and start new beginnings.

Bake some memories. Share your joy of Jesus with others. If not your family, go

Street Preacher

from page 3

comfortable with some of those who proclaim the Gospel in public places, but the right to speak openly about our faith is more important than personalities or personal preferences and comfort zones," Sears wrote in an Aug. 25 ADF news release.

Morrell, whose ministry is called Open Air Outreach, travels the country sharing the Gospel through tracts and Bible distribution as well as personal conversations and open air preaching. Some describe his message as edgy because he specifically calls homosexuals, drunkards, pornographers and others to repentance.

His own testimony includes a history of drug use, drug trafficking and larceny -- all before he was 16. It was during reha-

find someone in a nursing home or hospital to share it with. With Christ, behold all things are new.

We celebrate the birth of Christ, and therefore, because of Christ, we can change our celebrations to one of peace, joy, doing fun things and precious memory building. If you love Jesus, then love others around that He brings into your life and you can't help but have a blessed holiday. Because the bottom line is this: It isn't so much all the things we do at Christmas, but it is sharing the love of Christ - that He gives us - with those He has brought around us. That's a merry Christmas

bilitation as a 15-year-old that he heard the Gospel message and accepted Christ as his Savior, committing his life to helping others find freedom.

A YouTube video shows Morrell preaching near the campus of the University of Texas in Austin, where a student holding an open Bible asks him to read Matthew 7:1-5. Morrell quotes the passage and then asks the gathered students if they know what it means.

"It means hypocrites cannot judge," Morrell said. "If you have a log in your eye, you cannot judge. So like I said, if I was out getting wasted and smashed, I can't judge you guys for getting wasted and smashed because I have a log in my own eye. But since Jesus took the log out of my eye, I can see clearly to help remove the speck that's in your own."

Court won't revive student's suit over grad speech

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court won't revive a student's lawsuit against a school that punished her for talking about her religion during her high school graduation speech.

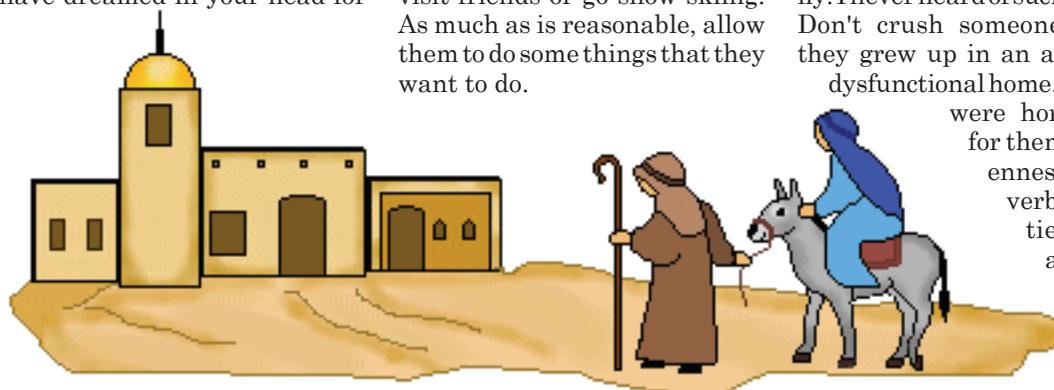
The high court on Monday refused to hear an appeal from Erica Corder. She was punished for her 2006 speech at the Lewis-Palmer High School commencement in Monument, Colorado.

School officials screened Corder's speech in advance but she changed her text, urging the audience to consider the Christian faith.

The principal made her to write a letter acknowledging the remarks were her personal views before she was given her diploma.

Corder sued, but federal courts threw out her lawsuit. Judges say the school didn't violate her rights because her remarks were school-sponsored, rather than private speech.

The case is Corder v. Lewis Palmer School District, 09-257.



days ahead of the holiday, how it is going to play out, then you are very disappointed when it doesn't go according to plan.

You don't want to be a "controller" in the family. Yes, it would be nice if everyone wanted to do what you had planned. But sometimes, people don't share the same vision you do. You have to let it go. We all must allow other people to enjoy their holidays the way they want to. Some of us are active people. Some of us are more sitters. Both are okay.

My wife and I can lay in bed at night and dream of sugar plums dancing in our head. However, we both have different dreams of how to spend the holidays. While we both work together to meet each other's desires; they are different. She dreams of doing absolutely nothing. Sitting all day would be a bang up holi-

Mississippi W.M.A.

Mrs. Ruby Bynum, President
43 Bear Pen Creek Rd., Laurel, MS 39440
601-428-1901

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Shirlene Smith
730 Hwy 533, Laurel, MS 39443
601-729-5638

Get Real!

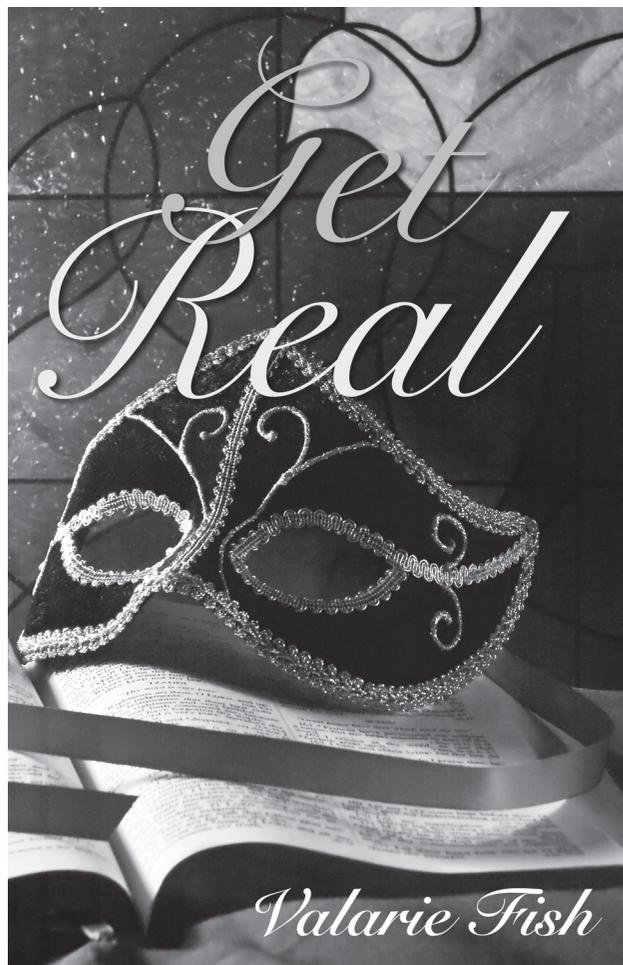
“Get Real! was conceived in my search for something to keep me afloat in a defining moment of my life.” Author Valarie Fish brings you the result of her search in her book *Get Real!* Her study book will provide you with a full year of daily devotionals or group study material to guide you to a deeper relationship with God.

“For so many years I walked the walk without any joy in the journey. Now that I have found the key to a vibrant, living faith by falling more and more in love with my Redeemer, I have no choice but to shout it from every mountaintop — I am my Beloved’s, and He is mine!”

Above all things, Valarie has a passion to guide others to a deeper relationship with the Lord through Bible study and practical application of the Word.



Author Valarie Fish



For fourteen years Valarie and her husband Dale were house parents at a children’s home. During that time God allowed them to love and parent thirty-nine children. They have three of their own - Dale is 14, Nathan is 9, and Joshua would have been 11. (He lives in heaven). In 2006 Dale became pastor of First Baptist

Send Jailed Pro-Life Heroine Linda Gibbons a Christmas Card

(LifeSiteNews.com) - Supporters of Linda Gibbons are disseminating the following information to encourage support for the Canadian pro-life sidewalk counsellor: Linda Gibbons has been a “common criminal” for many years now. For fifteen years, since 1994, this grandmother has been in and out of Ontario prisons. Her totally accumulated jail time is seven years. What is her crime? Linda prayerfully and quietly witnesses in front of Ontario abortion clinics, in violation of an unjust “bubble zone” law.

This past session has been particularly onerous - she has been behind bars since last January, and this will be her second consecutive Christmas in jail.

Please consider sending Linda a Christmas card this year. She will be encouraged and uplifted by your thoughtfulness. To maximize the effectiveness of this initiative, why not talk to your pastor and see if you can put this message in your church bulletin? Why not pass this message along to family and friends?

Her address is: Attention: Linda Gibbons Vanier Center for Women 655 Martin Street, Box 1040, Milton, Ontario L9T 5E6, Canada

There are some mailing guidelines because the Detention Centre mailing department reads everything sent to the inmates:

1. Don't use stickers (address, return address, pro-life) on the envelope or card.
2. Don't send any laminated cards, bookmarks, prayer cards, pro-life pamphlets. Non-laminated items will get to her.
3. Don't ask direct questions about daily activity of the detention centre.
4. Put your address directly in the card or letter. (Sometimes the mail sorter keeps the envelope and Linda feels badly if she can't write back.)
5. If you would like to send a little monetary gift to Linda it must be a money order made out to “Linda Gibbons.” The detention centre will deposit the money directly to her account. She uses any donations for envelopes and stamps.
6. Many people add a variety of Christian reading material in their mailings to her. She often shares articles with others in the Centre. She can receive pro-life material that show the development of the baby but not post abortion photos. She can't receive books. Try to stick to one or two pages of reading materials or pamphlets.

Church in Emerson, Arkansas. Now Valarie spends more time with her speaking and writing, including a regular column for the Banner News (Magnolia, AR) called “Can't Keep it to Myself,” a column for the Baptist Trumpet called “A Sip from the Saucer,” and youth curriculum for DiscipleGuide Church Resources.

“As soon as she opened her mouth - the wit, reality, and God's Word combined kept us glued to our seats. Valarie presented her spiritual knowledge, experience, and personality together in a way that kept you wanting to know more.” — Angie, attendee, Divine Diva conference, 2005

“Valarie captivates her audience immediately with her delightful candor and ability to get right to the heart of her topic.” — Diane Spriggs, editor, Baptist Trumpet

Get Real! is the official national WMA study book for 2010. The cost is \$9.99 and may be purchased from DiscipleGuide Church Resources. Go to Discipleguide.com.

BMMI Work

from page 1

village chiefs have invited the BMA of America to send teachers so their children can learn English. The donation from the Central Texas Association of an “ambulance boat” has allowed the staff of the Nakeo Clinic to provide medical care to the villagers and also to transport very sick people to the Clinic where they can be evaluated and, if needed, transported to the Champasak Provincial Hospital.

Because of the compassion shown to the villages by BMMI teams and BMAA missionaries, the BMMI was invited to come to the Gia Lai Province in Vietnam. After meeting with officials in Pleiku and Hanoi, we were given permission to conduct BMMI clinics in this area, which is home to many Montegard



Bro. Jerry Kidd baptizing

villages. However, due to the activities of an American photographer taking photographs and inciting the village people against the government, the invitation was withdrawn just before our arrival. The provincial government continues to invite us to return when the central government in Hanoi gives the okay for us to conduct medical clinics in the Montegard villages.

Due to the success of improving health care and the teaching of English, the BMMI was invited to visit the Khanwa village across the river from the Nakeo village. The only way to reach it is by canoe or boat as there are no roads to the village...we were actually the first foreigners allowed to enter this village. After providing medical care to the villagers, the village chief asked if we could help them build a school for their children. After obtaining permission, the entire BMMI team was allowed to cross the Mekong River and visit the village. Today, thanks to a member of that BMMI team, the village has a school and has requested the BMAA to provide a teacher.

In Laos, the province of Attapeu has invited the BMMI to build a Health Clinic in the village of May. The area surrounding this village was part of the old Ho Chi Minh Trail of the Vietnam War. The area was heavily bombed and still contains unexploded bombs. The Women’s Missionary Auxiliary (WMA) of the BMA of America has adopted this as their project for this year and are working toward reaching their goal of \$50,000 for this clinic. The residents of this area are excited as they anticipate the completion of the clinic since they have no medical facility or health care at the present.

By showing compassion, providing medical care to the villages, and being willing to teach men, women, boys and girls to speak English, the BMMI medical teams and BMAA missionaries have built a close relationship, not only with the medical community and villagers, but also with the political leaders as well. Through these relationships, lives have been touched and many have received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Out with Jesus, in with 'Frosty the Snowman' Federal court upholds school district's ban on tunes about Christ

The 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia has upheld a school district's ban on Christmas carols such as "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" – and approved "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman."

In the November 24 ruling the Third Circuit approved the school policy banning all religious Christmas music, including instrumentals, that had been part of the South Orange-Maplewood School District's Christmas program for years – until one parent complained.

Attorneys with the Thomas More Law, a national public interest law firm based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, argued to reverse a lower-court ruling affirming the policy. The firm argued the district's ban on religious music conveys a government-sponsored message of disapproval and hostility toward religion in violation of the Establishment Clause.

"Christmas is a national holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, not the birth of Frosty the Snowman or Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," said Richard Thompson, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Law Center. "This ruling is another example of how the courts have tyrannically twisted the Establishment Clause as a weapon against Christians in the War on Christmas."

The law firm says the school's ban was specifically aimed at preventing Christmas music, including simple instrumentals without words, during holiday concerts. The district had allowed the performance of traditional Christmas music for more than 60 years, but in 2004 suddenly banned it.

The complaint was filed on behalf of Michael Stratechuk and his children in the district. The ban deprived the Stratechuk children the right to receive information and ideas, the suit asserts, an inherent corollary of their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and academic freedom.

Thomas More Law Center attorney Robert Muise indicated

the case is not over. Muise said he will ask the Third Circuit to rehear it on both substantive and procedural errors. If denied, the Law Center indicated it will most likely appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The New Jersey school district policy at issue in the case was featured in a book, "The War on Christmas," by the Fox News Channel's John Gibson.

The district's decree ordered that only selections such as

"Winter Wonderland" and "Frosty the Snowman" would be allowed, with a complete ban on tunes about Jesus and even Santa Claus.

The high school's brass ensemble had to rebuild its repertoire, the Martin Luther King Gospel Choir was ordered not to perform and printed programs were edited to remove any "graphics" which refer to the holidays, such as Christmas trees."

Spiritual immaturity stymies church, researcher Barna says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—An unclear understanding of spiritual maturity may be an underlying reason why there is so little progress in seeing people develop spiritually in the United States, despite overwhelming access to churches and unlimited products and resources, The Barna Group says.

"America has a spiritual depth problem partly because the faith community does not have a robust definition of its spiritual goals," David Kinnaman, Barna's president, said. "The study shows the need for new types of spiritual metrics."

Barna found that most Christians equate spiritual maturity with following the rules described in the Bible. Also, many churchgoers were unable to identify how their church defines spiritual maturity. Most Christians, Barna said, offer one-dimensional views of personal spiritual maturity, giving answers such as having a relationship with Jesus, living a moral lifestyle or applying the Bible.

Most pastors struggle with articulating a specific set of objectives for spirituality and instead list activities over attitudes, the study said. Pastors are willing to acknowledge that a lack of spiritual maturity is one of the largest problems in the nation, but few of them say spiritual immaturity is a problem in their church.

When Barna asked the 600-plus pastors who were part of the survey to identify biblical

references to chart spiritual maturity, most gave generic responses such as "the whole Bible," "the gospels" or "the New Testament." Just 2 percent mentioned the Galatians 5 passage listing the fruit of the Spirit.

"One new metric might be a renewed effort on the part of leaders to articulate the outcomes of spiritual growth. Another might be the relational engagement and accountability that people maintain," Kinnaman said. "Of course, spirituality is neither a science nor a business, so there is a natural resistance to ascribing scientific or operational standards to what most people believe is an organic process."

"Yet, the process of spiritual growth is neither simplistic nor without guidelines, so hard work and solid thinking in this arena is needed."

Barna identified some opportunities in addressing the problems related to spiritual maturity in the nation. One positive, they said, is that Christians and pastors understand the obstacles that must be overcome, such as a lack of personal motivation, other competing obligations and a lack of involvement in spiritually nurturing activities.

Also, while most Americans are relatively content with the current state of their spiritual maturity, millions aspire to grow, Barna said. Christians under the age of 40 are less satisfied with spirituality and less "rule oriented" compared to older believers.

Another positive is that pastors who were surveyed realize they need more help with assessing spiritual health.

For more information, visit barna.org.

CHILDREN'S HOME

118 LOWE ROAD, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39443 - (601) 426-3928

Annual Rallies Held

The Harmony Association had their annual rally for the Home on September 11th. The meeting was held with the New Hope Baptist Church near Mantachie and Pastor Daniel Brookman. The Big Creek Association had their rally for the Home on November 5th with the Spring Hill Baptist Church near Laurel and Pastor Steven Clark. It was good to report on the ministry of the Home as well as to share a message from God's Word to those in attendance at these meetings. Our appreciation is extended to each association, church, and individual who gave to these rallies.

Special Emphasis

We would like to convey our gratitude and thanks to the good response to the Special Emphasis for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Home during the months of October and November. To every church, Sunday School class, auxiliary and individual we want to thank you for your participation in meeting the needs of the Home through your generous giving.

Recent Church Visits

On Sunday, November 8th, we were with the New Bethany

Baptist Church near Ellisville and Pastor Glenn Shoemake for their morning service. Then on Sunday evening we were with the Shiloh Baptist Church near Mt. Olive and Pastor Dewitt Bain for their evening service.



SIDNEY DAVIS
DIRECTOR

We are grateful for the opportunity to visit with these churches during the Special Emphasis time for the Home and to report on its ministry. It was a privilege to worship together and give God thanks. We enjoyed good Christian fellowship together as we shared a fine Thanksgiving meal with these churches.

Expression of Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy to the family of Mrs. Laura Thompson. Mrs. Thompson was a special person and a blessing to all who knew her. The Charles Thompson family is known and cherished by many. Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with the Thompson family during their time of loss and sorrow.

Out-of-Wedlock births rise worldwide

The percentage of births to unmarried mothers is increasing worldwide, and nearly four in 10 U.S. births were to unmarried women in 2007, according to a recent report by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Birth rates have risen considerably for unmarried women in their 20s and over, the report said, and nonmarital birth rates are highest for Hispanic women followed by black women.

The study, released in May, said births to unmarried women in 2007 totaled 1.7 million, up 26 percent from 2002. Sixty percent of births to women ages 20-24 were to unmarried women, up from 52 percent in 2002, and 32 percent of births to women ages 25-29 were to unmarried women, up from 25 percent in 2002.

Among the 14 countries analyzed in the report, the percentage of all live unmarried births in the United States -- 40 percent -- ranks somewhere in the middle. USA Today noted the U.S. figure is up from 18 percent

in 1980.

The National Center for Health Statistics said nonmarital births are at a higher risk of having adverse birth outcomes such as low birthweight, preterm birth and infant mortality than children born to married women. Children born to single mothers also typically have more limited social and financial resources as well, the report said.

The historic increases in nonmarital childbearing result from many factors, the center said, including substantial delays in marriage beginning with the baby-boom generation and changes in sexual activity, contraceptive effectiveness and use, and abortion. Many children are born to couples in cohabiting relationships, they noted, with about 40 percent of nonmarital births to cohabiting women.

Also, attitudinal changes have impacted the statistics, the report said, as societal disapproval that unmarried mothers faced at one time has diminished sharply.

"Want to touch a child's life?"
Go to, www.shepherdbags.info

CHURCH NEWS



News articles should contain information that will be of interest to the general public who are not members of the church that is reporting.

Gospel group available

BigBlessin Southern Gospel Trio Based Out Of Lucedale, Mississippi, would love to come share the Word



through song and life our Savior's name on high. The trio is baritone Mitch Greene, lead Chris Smith, and Tenor Todd Seaborg. You may contact them at 601-508-1574 or 601-766-3035.

Boguefala Church, Mooreville

Greetings from Boguefala Baptist! We give praises to God as we have had 46 new members join since the beginning of the year. Not only is attendance up in our worship service, we are also seeing a rise in Sunday School attendance averaging 90 each week. Some of

the members have issued a challenge to Bro. David Perry. Once we have 100 in attendance in Sunday School, he will preach wearing a bowtie. We'll let you know what Sunday that is going to happen. It should be coming soon.

We want to extend this invitation to everyone to attend our Christmas program, "The Best Christmas Play Ever". It will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there.

Woodlawn, Pascagoula

It has been none stop since Bro. Cresswell came on the field at Woodlawn in Pascagoula. He and his wife, Tyra, joined the Merry Hearts on their trip to Green Mountain, North Carolina, for a week at the end of October. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful change of fall leaves and great Christian fellowship. A special program was presented Sunday, November 8th to honor our veterans. In a very moving presentation each branch of the army forces was represented by their flag followed by those who had served. Family members were recognized by their branch of the service - both in honor of and in memory of.

Ordination service was held for Bro. Claude Daugherty on Friday, November 13. His son Bro. Ricky Daugherty delivered the message. Bro. Daugherty was presented a Bible. Following the service a reception was held in the Educational Building. The church celebrated their annual Thanksgiving supper and the program was a display of the talents of church members. The most important events have been the moving of the Holy Spirit; two have come by letter and four young people have been baptized. We covet your prayers as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior.

Gail M. Gates

Freedom comes after standing strong

OneNewsNow - Two Christian women have been released from an Iranian prison after being held captive for roughly nine months. (See earlier article) The two women, 27-year-old Maryam Rostampour and 30-year-old Marzieh Amirizadeh, were arrested and held in the Evin prison in Tehran for refusing to deny their faith.

The case began with their arrest in March, and it was not until April that authorities informed the women that they were charged with illegal gatherings and acting against state security. By August, the two were warned that they should recant their Christian faith, and when they refused to do so, replying, "We love Jesus," they were charged a month later with anti-state activities, propagation of the Christian faith, and apostasy.

However, a new judge who presided over their most recent case was more sympathetic than those before him, and he acquitted them of some charges. The women were released Wednesday.

Jerry Dykstra of Open Doors USA says that though this news is highly encouraging, their release does not necessarily mean they will be living in complete freedom.

"They still might have to face some charges of apostasy or prophesying about their Christian religion," Dykstra warns. "They could be called into court at any time, and of course that's really stressful."

Open Doors initially launched an e-



mail campaign on the women's behalf, pleading their release from prison.

Russia - pastors fined for service

OneNewsNow - Two pastors in Russia were recently fined for holding a worship service in public.

The ministers stand accused of not acquiring permission to hold an open religious demonstration. However, under Russian law, permission from government authorities is not needed in cases of religious services.

Todd Nettleton, a spokesman with Voice of the Martyrs, wonders if this situation is the beginning of an unfavorable sequence.

"It's hard to know if this is part of a pattern [or] if this is an isolated incident," he speculates. "It's one of those things where you watch what happens... and then you see [if] there [is] more coming. We do know the Russian government has exercised a little more control or a little more oversight over the church in recent months."

The pastors were fined the equivalent of about 75 U.S. dollars, and they have yet to decide if they will appeal the charge.

Expulsion of Chinese Christian reversed

OneNewsNow - A high school student in China, expelled because of his Christian faith, has now been allowed to return to school.

Last month, 17-year-old Chen Le was expelled after he refused to denounce his faith and sign a document confirming he was a Christian. Chen's story circulated quickly on the Internet, and Chinese communist authorities have now reversed their decision.

Todd Nettleton, a spokesman with Voice of the Martyrs, says Chen's story is all too common in the communist nation.

"What they want is for all of the Christians to operate through the registered church, which is controlled by the Communist Party [and] the Chinese government," he explains. "Many of the Christians say [that] the head of the church is not the communist party, the head of the church is Christ -- and so they refuse to follow that registration system."

News reports claim communist authorities were concerned about the international pressure caused by the expulsion.

BMA OF MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

4226 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH, LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440 - (601) 428-8616
Rayburn Freeman, Director



Loan Fund Trustee report

The Revolving Loan Fund Trustees met Monday, November 30, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the State Missions Office. Trustees present were Chairman Doug Lee, Billy Huffmaster, Frank Panzrino, Roy Caldwell, Sam Oglesby, Kenneth Lott and Roger Franks, along with Manager Lavell Lee and Director Rayburn Freeman.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Lee. Roger Franks brought the devotional thoughts on the Lord is coming back soon and led in opening prayer.

Election of officers for the new year was called for with the following being elected: Roy Caldwell, Clerk; Kenneth Lott, Asst. Clerk; Doug Lee, Chairman; Frank Panzrino, Asst. Chairman.

The following business was transacted: Lavell Lee presented the financial overview as of November 20, 2009

which was adopted. Motion carried to confirm the telephone authorization to offer to refinance the loan of First Baptist Church, Potosi, MO. Motion carried to extend \$50,000.00 line of credit to Campground Baptist Church of Gulfport. Motion carried to release up to \$100,000.00 of the Tupelo Reserve Fund to First Hispanic Baptist Mission to assist in property purchase in Ripley, Mississippi. Motion carried to finance the property purchase balance of First Hispanic Baptist Mission at the request of the BMA of Mississippi Missionary Committee. Motion carried to postpone accepting the custodial ownership of Spencer Memorial Baptist per their request pending legal advice. Motion carried to accept custodial ownership of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church property per request of that church.

The meeting was adjourned with Sam Oglesby leading the closing prayer.

Church Staff Openings

Big Creek, Soso

Big Creek Baptist Church, Soso, Mississippi has an opening for a youth pastor. Interested parties should contact Pastor Don Brown at 601-426-3293 or email him at djb1948@gmail.com.

Oakland, Vicksburg

Oakland Baptist Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time youth pastor. If you are interested in this position, please contact Pastor Justin Rhodes at 601-218-3364 or pastorjustinrhodes@yahoo.com.

Farmington, Corinth

Farmington Baptist Church in Corinth, Mississippi, is seeking a full-time youth & children's minister. The responsibilities include all aspects of youth ministry, as well as working with the children's committee and overseeing children's church. Interested individuals should contact the church at 662-286-8855 or email the pastor at www.timnall@farmingtonbaptistchurch.com.

"Want to touch
a child's life?"

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www.shepherdbags.info